

REMARKS

Claims 12, 17 and 33-39 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 and 13-16 were canceled. Claims 12 and 17 were rewritten in independent form. For at least the reasons set forth below, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Figs. 30-33 were amended by adding “Prior Art” labels to each of the drawings.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,186 (Murata).

Claims 33-39 were indicated as being allowable, and claims 12 and 17 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

1. Patentability of independent claims 12 and 17 over Murata.

The Examiner stated that claims 12 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original base claim 1. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original base claim 1 and original intervening claim 15.

Accordingly, claims 12 and 17 are believed to be patentable over the applied reference.

2. Claims 1-11 and 13-16

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 have been cancelled, and therefore, the rejection of claims 1-11 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been effectively rendered moot.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner’s rejections were fully addressed, the present application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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